

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A locating system for determining the location of an object in an area comprising a plurality of sub-areas, said system comprising:

at least one data carrier associated with the object and located in a location defined by an absolute position; and

an information unit which is remote from the at least one data carrier for identifying a current sub-area in which the data carrier is located based on the absolute position, assigning one of a plurality of possible areas corresponding to said absolute position, determining sub-area boundaries corresponding to the identified assigned sub-area, and transmitting the sub-area boundaries to the at least one data carrier, and identifying a new sub-area in which the data carrier is located when the data carrier leaves the current sub-area; wherein

said at least one data carrier transmits its position to the information unit only in case of initialization and in case of movement of the at least one data carrier from the current sub-area, and ~~wherein~~

a third party interrogates the information unit for the position of the at least one data carrier.

2. (Currently Amended) The locating system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the at least one data carrier has a memory for storing the sub-area boundaries and absolute position data, and a

comparator for comparing the position data with the area information when the boundaries corresponding to the sub-area are received by the at least one data carrier.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of locating an object provided with a data carrier located in an area comprising a plurality of sub-areas, the method comprising:

receiving position data by the data carrier from a position-determining system;

transmitting position data by the data carrier to an information unit;

identifying, in the information unit, a current sub-area in which the data carrier is located based on the position data;~~assigning one of a plurality of possible areas corresponding to the position data by the information unit;~~

determining, in the information unit, sub-area boundaries corresponding to the identified sub-area~~assigned area by the information unit;~~

transmitting the sub-area boundaries ~~boundaries of the area~~ to the data carrier;

comparing a position of the data carrier with the sub-area boundaries; ~~boundaries of the area;~~

transmitting new position data to the information unit only in case of initialization and in case of a negative result of the comparison of the sub-area boundaries transmitted by the information unit with the position of the data carrier; and

identifying, in the information unit, a new sub-area in which the data carrier is located when the data carrier leaves the current sub-area; and

interrogating the information unit from a third party for the position of the data carrier.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the current sub-area in which the data carrier is located is stored in the information unit.

5. (Currently Amended) The locating system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the plurality of possible sub-areas are stored in the information unit as electronic maps.

6. (Currently Amended) The locating system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the sub-area boundaries are transmitted in the form of data of a polygon.

7. (Currently Amended) The locating system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the information unit provides the third party with the position data of the respective sub-area.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the plurality of possible sub-areas are stored in the information unit as electronic maps.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the sub-area boundaries are transmitted in the form of data of a polygon.